Message Text

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E.O. 11652: N/A TAGS: PINT, PINS, ID

SUBJECT: NATIONAL DAY: THE LESSER LIGHTS ALSO SPEAK

REF: JAKARTA 11034

- 1. SUMMARY: DURING THEIR NATIONAL DAY ADDRESSES, MINISTERS OF DEFENSE PANGGABEAN AND INTERNAL AFFAIRS AMIRMACHMUD ISSUED STERN WARNINGS TO DISSIDENTS, WHILE MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS MALIK ATTACKED AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL AND THE INTERNATIONAL COMMISSION OF JURISTS FOR THEIR CRITICISM OF INDONESIA'S HUMAN RIGHTS PERFORMANCE. END SUMMARY.
- 2. FOLLOWING PRESIDENT'S SUHARTO'S "STATE OF THE ARCHIPELAGO" SPEECH ON THE EVE OF NATIONAL DAY (REFTEL), VARIOUS MINISTERIAL LUMINARIES TOOK TO THEIR RESPECTIVE PODIA TO CONFIRM AND EXPAND ON THE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE. THE TWO MINISTERS MOST CONCERNED WITH SECURITY, DEFENSE'S GENERAL PANGGABEAN AND INTERIOR'S GENERAL AMIRMACHMUD, ISSUED SIMILARY HARSH WARNINGS THAT THE GOVERNMENT OF INDONESIA'S (GOI) TOLERANCE FOR DISSIDENCE IS WEARING THIN. PANGGABEAN SAID THAT THE ARMED FORCES ARE READY "TO CONFRONT LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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AND TAKE FIRM MEASURES AGAINST THOSE WHO PURPOSELY DISRUPT NATIONAL STABILITY," WHILE AMIRMACHMUD ATTACKED THOSE "WHO ARE PURPOSELY TRYING TO DISTORT AND MISUE THE GOI'S GOOD INTENTIONS."

3. FOREIGN AFFAIRS MINISTER ADAM MAILK, MEANWHILE, VENTED HIS IRE AT INTERNATIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS ACTIVISTS

IN GENERAL AND AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL AND THE INTERNATIONAL COMMISSION OF JURISTS IN PARTICULAR. THESE TWO ORGANIZATIONS, WHICH HAVE RECENTLY PUBLISHED LETTERS CLAIMING TO BE FROM INDONESIAN POLITICAL DETAINEES HIGHLY CRITICAL OF THE GOI'S HUMAN RIGHTS RECORD, ARE ACCORDING TO MALIK "PURPOSELY MISUSING THE HUMAN RIGHTS THEME OF AMERICAN PRESIDENT JIMMY CARTER TO ATTACK AND UNDERMINE THE GOI." MALIK ALSO SAID THAT CHARGES OF GOI MISDEEDS IN TIMOR WERE EXAGGERATED BY "CERTAIN FOREIGN ELEMENTS" WHO WANTED TO DISCREDIT INDONESIA.

- 4. ONE NEWSPAPER, THE NOT WHOLLY RELIABLE BERITA BUANA, REPORTS THAT MALIK, ON THE TOPIC OF INDONESIA'S RELATIONS WITH THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA (PRC), CLAIMED THE PRC HAD SET BACK THE TIMETABLE FOR NORMALIZATION BY "MASTERMINDING ANTI-NEW ORDER DEMONSTRATIONS IN JAKARTA AND IN THE REGIONS OF INDONESIA" AND BY "GIVING ASYLUM AND FACILITIES IN PEKING" TO INDONESIAN TRAITORS.
- 5. COMMENT: WHILE MALIK'S "SHOOT FROM THE LIP" STYLE HAS OCCASIONALLY YIELDED SOME EMBARRASSING QUOTES, IT IS UNLIKELY EVEN THE OUTSPOKEN FOREIGN MINISTER WOULD LAUNCH SUCH A BALTANT ATTACK ON CHINA. HE IS WIDELY BELIEVED TO BE A SUPPORT OF THE QUICK RESUMPTION OF INDONESIAN-PRC RELATIONS. WIRJONO, NORTH AMERICAN DIRECTOR AT THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS, WHEN LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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INFORMALLY QUERIED ABOUT THE BERITA BBUANA ACCOUNT. SPECUALTED THAT MALIK MAY HAVE BEEN TRYING TO REFER TO ALLEGED PRC INTERFERENCE DURING THE 1965-66 UPHEAVAL IN INDONESIA.
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